

REMARKS:

The claims have been amended to make some minor typographical corrections. In view of the nature of these amendments, it is submitted that no new matter has been added to the application.

Claims 15 and 24 were objected to because of certain informalities. This objection is traversed and it is submitted that, in view of the typographical corrections made to claims 15 and 24, the objections are no longer applicable to the claims now in the application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

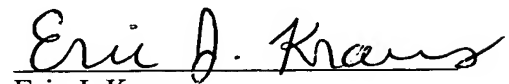
Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the cancellation of this claim, it is submitted that this rejection is no longer applicable to the claims now in the application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are requested.

Claims 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In view of the cancellation of claims 27-28, it is submitted that this rejection is no longer applicable to the claims now in the application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are requested.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented with this response, it is urged that the rejections of record are overcome and the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 04-1529 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric J. Kraus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

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